

FLO
connect
engage, educate, aspire

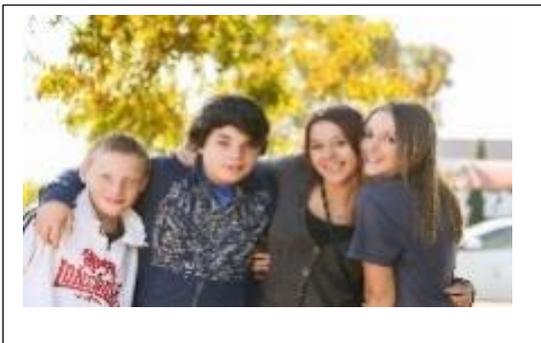
2015



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Student & Family Information Booklet



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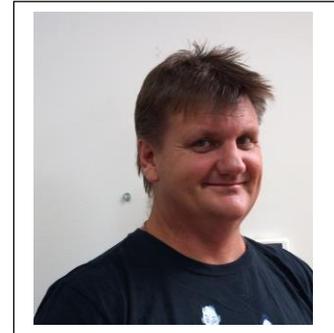
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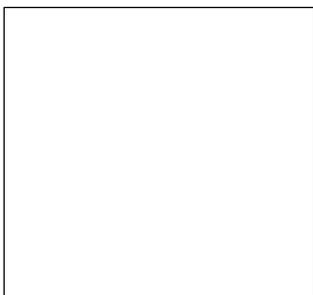
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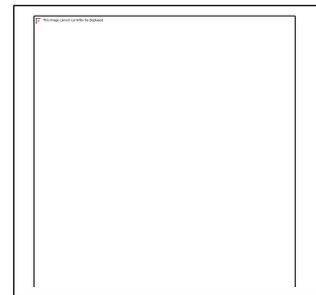
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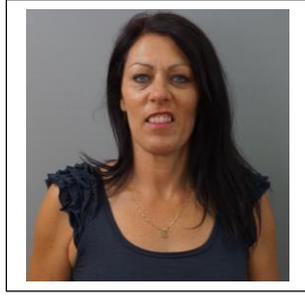
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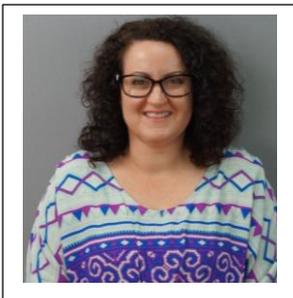
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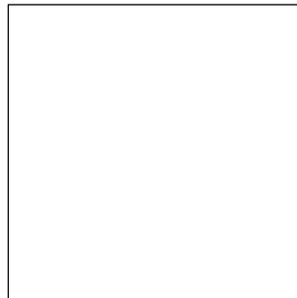
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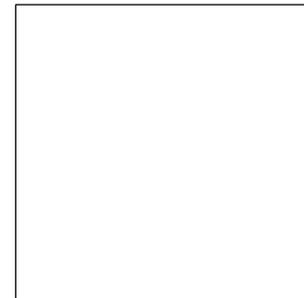
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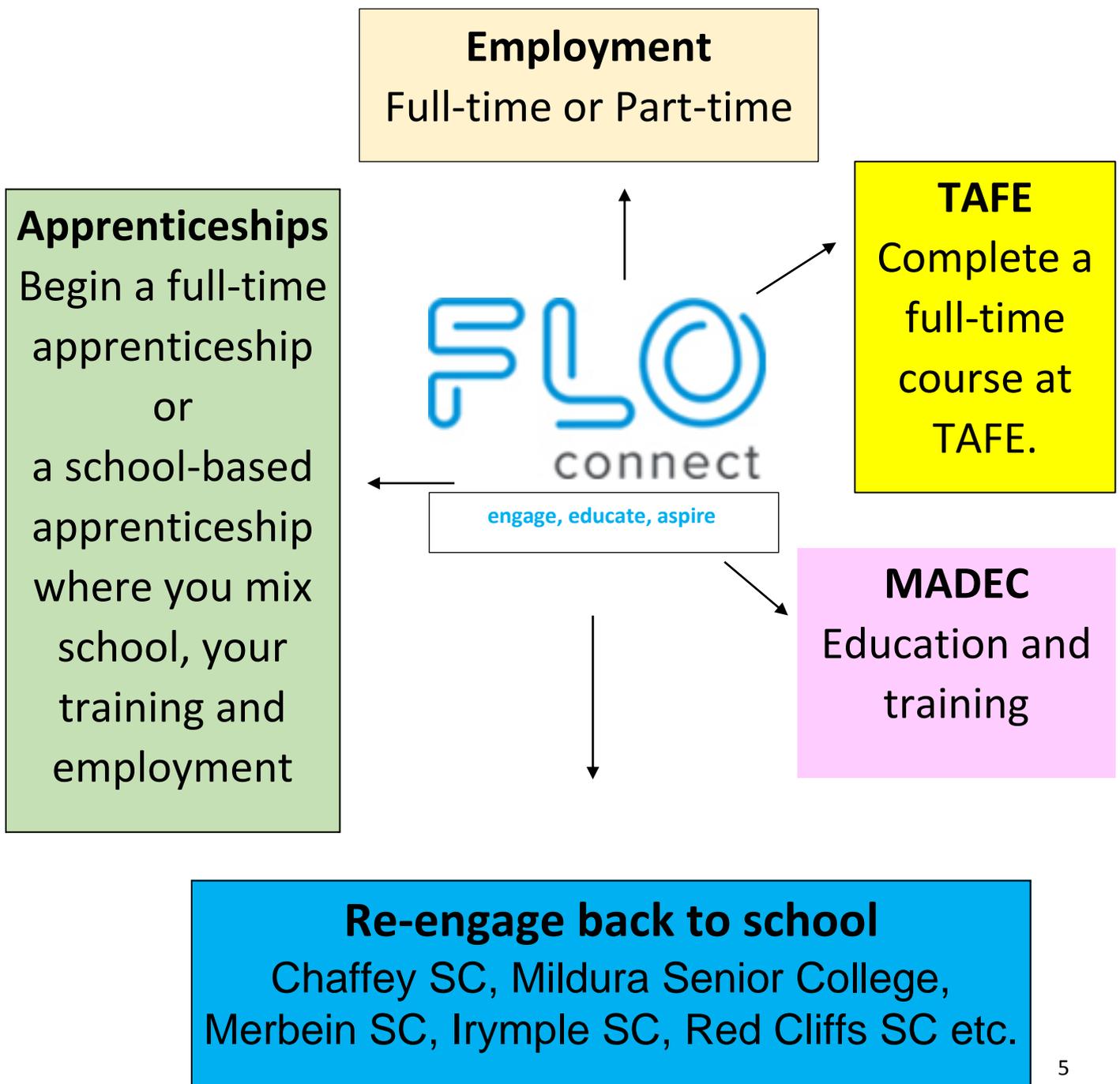


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FLO CONNECT

Aim: Our community has a significant problem with the number of young people who have disengaged from school too early and are not moving on to further training or employment as demonstrated in the tables below. FLO Connect aims to re-engage young people aged 12-18 who have been out of school for 3 months or longer, providing an individualised learning program based on their strengths and interests so as to reconnect them onto a learning pathway back into school, TAFE or a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

WHERE DO I GO NEXT?



CASE STUDIES OF FLO CONNECT YOUNG PEOPLE

A snapshot of achievements (2014)...

Female: 16 years

Previous school attendance: 24.7%

FLO Connect attendance: 65%

“Before I ended up at FLO Connect, I was lazy and doing nothing apart from lying in bed all day on Facebook or watching TV. No one could get me into a class room or even go anywhere near a school, I was at rock bottom with my education and was going to end up nowhere. FLO Connect has improved me in so many different ways, I now do fitness, I’m not lazy, I have no trouble with entering a class room now and I absolutely love school and would rather be here than anywhere else! I’m looked up to as one of the leaders here at FLO Connect and that to me is amazing! In one term I completed two certificates, which normally would take students two terms to do so.

After FLO Connect, I’m hoping for a career with something to do with troubled teenagers who are in the same position I was in before FLO Connect. I’ve made amazing new friends with people at FLO Connect, and my connection with the mentors is unreal. I just hope that more places like FLO Connect start happening so more troubled teenagers have the same amazing opportunity I had and still have at FLO Connect. I honestly couldn’t thank my mentors and FLO Connect enough for how they have set me up for my future”

Male: 14 years old

Previous school attendance 2013: 18.7%

FLO Connect attendance 2014: 95%

“I was wagging school, starting fights, swearing at teachers and people down the street, breaking the law, running from cops and other stuff before FLO Connect. I found out about FLO Connect from Cindy at Youth Connections and Joshua. I came to FLO Connect to get somewhere in life and my education. I want to be working full-time doing automotive or something that I can do good with my maths like working at a bank or something for maths skills”

Male: 14 years

Previous school attendance: 17%

FLO Connect attendance: 96%

“I used to sit around the house and do nothing when I was expelled from school for almost two years. Once I was expelled from school I was referred to Youth Connections. They suggested that I come to FLO Connect. Since I have been here, I am doing Certificate I in Vocational Preparation. I have done an internship in retail at ‘Game Traders’. I don’t know at the moment what my future will be but I hope I will be rich and famous”

Female: 17 years
Previous school attendance: 0%
FLO Connect attendance: 100%

“I was at the bottom. I wasn’t at school; I had no friends and no career opportunities. I went to Youth Connections to see how they could help and they told me about FLO Connect. I was so excited about starting there. I met the staff and they were all so friendly. I made some great friends that I adore and even made relationships with the staff. I wanted to work in childcare and found out I had to have my year ten or equivalent so FLO Connect enrolled me into a short course that gives me my equivalent. It made me so happy. Now, only about a month later I’m studying childcare and I’m doing my Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. I could not thank FLO Connect and Youth Connections enough for how much they have helped and supported me during my journey”

FLO CONNECT LEARNING PROGRAM OVERVIEWS 2015

FLO Connect Full-time Program

Young people are supported by a mentor and a case manager in a home group of no more than 12 young people. Curriculum is individually tailored along with daily support for good mental health & wellbeing.

Timetable: Monday- Friday 9 am -12:30 pm

Age: 12-18 years

Activities: Individual research projects, fitness, health & nutrition, literacy, numeracy, Pre-Apprenticeship modules, volunteering, creative arts, personal development

FLO Connect VET Program

Young people will be mentored to improve their employability skills, career aspirations and preparation for employment

Timetable: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Age: 15-18 years

Activities: Certificate II in Retail (optional), VET music, industry visits, Vocational Agency visits, work experience preparation, short courses (RSA, Food Handlers etc.), industry ‘shadow’ days, hands on projects

FLO Connect Study Group

An opportunity for young people to receive mentoring to complete tasks associated with external courses or curriculum they are enrolled in.

Timetable: Thursday 9 am - 12:30 pm

Age: 15-18 years

Activities: Curriculum tutoring, wellbeing support, social connection with youth, advocate for the young person if they are experiencing difficulties with their studies

FLO Connect 'Road Scholar' Program

A program designed for young people who may find it difficult to attend the FLO Connect setting and prefer to complete their curriculum on our 'roving' bus! This program may lead to a transition to attend the FLO Connect setting.

Timetable: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Age: 12-18 years

Activities: Fitness, health & nutrition, literacy, numeracy, Pre-Apprenticeship modules, volunteering, creative arts, personal development.

CURRICULUM

VCAL (VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING)

Young people will complete modules in the foundation or intermediate VCAL curriculum.
Modules covered:

VCAL FOUNDATION MODULES UNIT 1

Literacy Outcomes:

- Writing for Self-Expression
- Writing for Practical Purposes
- Writing for Knowledge
- Writing for Public Debate
- Reading for Self-Expression
- Reading for Practical Purposes
- Reading for Knowledge
- Reading for Public Debate

Numeracy Outcomes:

- Numeracy for Practical Purposes – Design
- Numeracy for Practical Purposes – Measuring
- Numeracy for Personal Organisation – Money and Time
- Numeracy for Personal Organisation – Location
- Numeracy for Interpreting Society – Data
- Numeracy for Interpreting Society – Numerical Information

Personal Development Skills Outcomes:

- Plan and organise a simple activity
- Demonstrate knowledge specific to a simple activity or goal
- Demonstrate skills specific to a simple activity or goal
- Solve problems specific to a simple activity or goal
- Demonstrate teamwork skills

Work Related Skills Outcomes:

- Learn about a selected workplace or industry setting
- Identify OHS roles and responsibilities of persons within a workplace setting
- Identify OHS problems that may arise in the workplace
- Plan and organise a basic work-related activity that meets OHS procedures
- Work in a team to complete a safe work procedure for a basic work-related activity

VCAL INTERMEDIATE MODULES UNIT 1

Literacy Outcomes:

- Writing for Self-Expression
- Writing for Practical Purposes
- Writing for Knowledge
- Writing for Public Debate
- Reading for Self-Expression

- Reading for Practical Purposes
- Reading for Knowledge
- Reading for Public Debate

Numeracy Outcomes:

- Numeracy for Practical Purposes – Design
- Numeracy for Practical Purposes – Measuring
- Numeracy for Personal Organisation – Money and Time
- Numeracy for Personal Organisation – Location
- Numeracy for Interpreting Society – Data
- Numeracy for Interpreting Society – Numerical Information

PDS Outcomes:

- Plan and organise a complex project or activity
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills in the context of a complex project or activity
- Demonstrate self-management skills for goal achievement in the context of a project or activity
- Describe leadership skills and responsibilities
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills to communicate ideas and information

Work Related Skills Outcomes:

- Learn about the conditions and entitlements of a specific industry
- Obtain and communicate information in response to a work-related OHS issue
- Develop knowledge and understanding of OHS in a work-related context
- Identify workplace hazards
- Work in a team to follow safe work procedures within a work-related activity
- Use information and communications technology and other technology in relation to a work-related activity

VCE (VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION)

Young people may have the option of completing VCE modules at FLO Connect in partnership with our auspicing school, Red Cliffs Secondary College. Subjects can be completed at FLO Connect and also the option of attending some modules at Red Cliffs Secondary College. (**Please note:** subject enrolments must be completed before commencement of term 1 or term 3).

VET (VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING)

Young people have the opportunity to enrol in VET courses in their chosen area of interest. Partnerships include Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, Mildura Trade Training Centre, MADEC, Complex Training and SMGT.

Weekly Timetable Overview (Fulltime program)

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:30am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00am	Home Group	Home Group	Home Group	Home Group	Home Group
9:30am	Individual Research Project	Individual Research Project	Individual Research Project	Volunteering	Individual Research Project
Break	10:00am	10:00am	10:30am		Break
10:15am	Lifestyle Program- Gym <i>OR</i> Community Connections	Master classes- Literacy Numeracy Pre-Apprenticeship	Master classes- Literacy Numeracy Pre-Apprenticeship		
Break	11:00am	11:00am	11:00am	Recreation 11:30am- 12:30pm	11:00am
11.15am	Master classes- Literacy Numeracy Pre-Apprenticeship	Lifestyle Program- Gym <i>OR</i> Community Connections	Martial Arts <i>OR</i> Community Connections		
12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Finish	Finish
1:00pm	VET programs	VET programs	VET programs	Google Classrooms	Google Classrooms
3:00pm	Finish	Finish	Finish		

Individual Research Projects (IRP) overview

Individual research Projects are completed by each young person at FLO Connect. Projects are based on the 'Big Picture' concepts and philosophies of 'one student at a time', creating a personalised curriculum that is unique for each young person. Learning best takes place when our young people are active participants in their learning and have the responsibility and choice of the content, focussing on their passions and areas of interest. Young people work on their Individual Research Project (IRP) throughout the term and then present their research as an 'Exhibition' to mentors, case managers and family. All young people complete a reflection document at the completion of their Exhibition.

Google Classrooms overview

Google Classroom helps teachers create, assign, and collect student classwork and homework paperlessly. With Google Classroom, teachers can seamlessly integrate Google Docs, Google Drive, and a school email to create assignments, provide feedback for progress and completed work, and communicate with their students directly and with whole class announcements - all without using a single piece of paper. Students can work on assignments in Google Docs and turn it in with a few clicks.

When teachers create assignments, folders are automatically created in Google Drive for each student. They can choose to share a single document (eg. project instructions), or automatically make a copy for each student (eg. a project template). They can see who has completed the work at a glance and assign grades. Students can easily see due dates on their assignments page, so they can stay organized and submit work on time.

Relationships & Values

Building respectful and trusting relationships with our young people at FLO Connect is the foundation of our educational model. Young people are supported daily with every aspect of their learning - academic, social, emotional, psychological and physical health. Mentors and Case Managers are the first port of call for support but additional support is always available to each and every young person from the FLO Connect Co-ordinator, other Mildura Rural City Council staff, educational staff and daily visits from mental health relational therapist staff from *Tristar*. It is with this support that young people can receive the appropriate assistance in a timely manner to ensure they feel they can get back on track with their learning as quickly as possible.

Engagement & Attendance

Make every minute count! Regular attendance at FLO Connect ensures young people make the most of their opportunities of support, learning and social inclusion. It is expected that all young people attend regularly according to their individual timetable. Equally important as attendance is engagement! It is important for all young people to make the most of their learning time by engaging in all activities to the best of their potential.

Restorative Practice

The most profound learning occurs when there is a healthy relationship between mentor, case managers and young people at FLO Connect. Restorative Practice assists mentors, case managers, young people and families to build, maintain and restore healthy relationships. This is a core philosophy for all staff, young people and families in the FLO Connect setting. Restorative Practice helps to build capacity to enable young people to self-regulate behaviour, take responsibility for their actions and repair relationships. This process is done in a timely manner, discussing and resolving all issues and concerns that allows young people to get back on track with their learning which contributes to the improvement of the learning environment and learning outcomes.

FLO CONNECT STAFF ROLES

FLO Connect Co-ordinator

Mentors

The mentor is responsible for a home group of young people on a daily basis ranging in ages from 12-18 years of age. Mentors need to have a working understanding of mental health and wellbeing issues that impact on the daily lives of our youth. Respectful and trusting relationships are crucial to the ongoing successful engagement of each young person with their Mentor. The mentor will also be responsible for developing appropriate learning and well-being curriculum that complements each young person's individual learning plan, strengths and aspirations. It is essential that mentors are flexible within each young person's timetable to provide the most appropriate and supportive assistance to the needs of each young person on a daily basis. Mentors will have ongoing support from the Co-ordinator, other mentors and case managers.

Case Managers

The case manager will work closely with mentors and the Co-ordinator to support young people to overcome barriers they face in successful engagement at FLO Connect on a daily basis. The case manager will be responsible for referrals to organisations/agencies that assist young people to engage fully in their program that complements the individual learning plan completed by the young person, their family, mentor and case manager. It is essential that the case manager works flexibly within the setting, prioritising the needs of the young people on a daily basis. Respectful and trusting relationships between the young people and case manager are crucial for the ongoing successful engagement and aspirations of each young person at FLO Connect. The case manager will also be responsible for delivering specific programs to young people as the need arises (eg. anger management, self-esteem, anxiety, emotional intelligence, drug and alcohol awareness). Case managers will be co-located in FLO Connect home groups with mentors and young people.

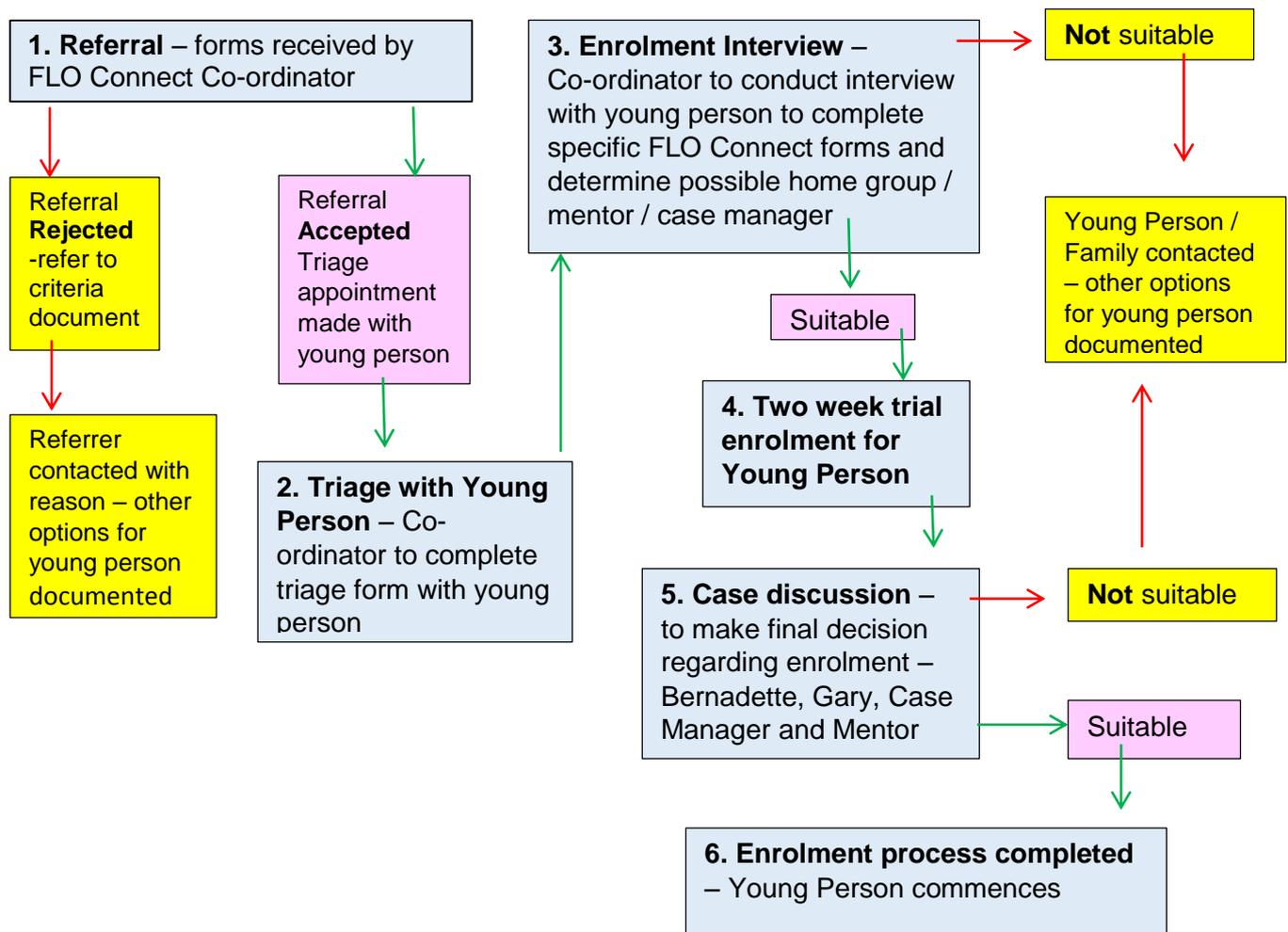
Education Support

The educational support staff will work closely with mentors and the Co-ordinator to support young people to overcome barriers they face in successful engagement at FLO Connect on a daily basis. In particular, the ES staff member will directly support young people who are funded by the PSD program. The ES staff member will be responsible for the suggestion of referrals to organisations/agencies that assist young people to engage fully in their program that complements the individual learning plan completed by the young person, their family, mentor and case manager. It is essential that the ES staff member works flexibly within the setting, prioritising the needs of the young people on a daily basis. Respectful and trusting relationships between the young people and the ES staff member are crucial for the ongoing successful engagement and aspirations of the funded young person at FLO Connect. The ES staff member will be co-located in FLO Connect home groups with mentors, case managers and young people.

ENROLMENT PROCEDURE AT FLO CONNECT



REFERRAL, TRIAGE, ENROLMENT PROCESS



FLO CONNECT CELEBRATIONS

End of year Presentation Night



REPORTING PROGRESS TO FAMILIES

Statement of Achievement

The Statement of Achievement (SOA) is FLO Connects way of reporting progress and achievements of your young people to their families and carers. These are compiled at the end of every term and cover information regarding wellbeing, learning, relationships, Work Experience, volunteering and curriculum. These are presented at our end of term celebration lunch and followed up for discussion at the young person's Exhibition. Our emphasis is on what the young person **can** do and how this drives the passion and motivation for their future pathways.

Mentors, Case Managers, FLO Connect Co-ordinator, young people and their families all make contributions to the SOA, which ensures the next steps in their learning are appropriate and specific to each young person's goals and aspirations. (See SOA template in the appendices section).

Young People Exhibitions

Young people present their work and learning at the end of each term. Each Exhibition is a compilation of the term's work based on the requirements of the IRP Matrix to ensure a variety of subjects are covered in accordance to the young person's individualised curriculum. Young people will present their Exhibition to their Mentor, Case Manager and families and other FLO Connect staff if appropriate.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Open Night

FLO connect hosts an open night every year to engage families and the community to our environment. It is a great opportunity to meet all FLO Connect staff, view young people's home group area and tasks they are currently working on.

Parent Forums

Parent forums are held every term at FLO Connect. It is a great opportunity to meet other families, network with external agencies and FLO Connect community partnerships. This is an informal catch up over a cuppa and afternoon tea!

FLO Connect Partnerships

- Mildura Rural City Council
- Northern Mallee LLEN
- Northern Mallee Community Partnerships
- Sunraysia Murray Group Training
- FIT Mildura Gym
- Australian Inland Botanic Gardens
- SNAP Fitness
- Victoria Police Youth Resource Officer
- Centacare
- COMPLEX Training
- Tristar Medical Centre
- Department of Justice
- Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- Centacare
- Australian National Institute of Training
- Mallee Accommodation Support Program
- Murray Mallee Group Training
- Mallee Family Care
- Department of Human Services
- Mallee District Aboriginal Services